THIS AUTHOR REALLY DOES HAVE A DISTINCT STYLE.
THEIR METAPHORS ARE UNUSUAL, TOO.
WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO "LIVE LIKE A LOACH STUFFED INSIDE THE HOLE IN THE MIDDLE OF A FISH CAKE?"
I'M NOT SURE IF I'M SUPPOSED TO LAUGH OR NOT.
ONCE YOU GET USED TO IT, IT'LL SEEM UNIQUE AND INTERESTING. THEIR FORESHADOWING IS AMAZING, TOO.
THAT FORESHADOWING COMES UP LATER.
IT DOES, STRANGELY, LEAVE ME WANTING MORE.
BUT THERE'S NO WAY I COULD'VE READ THIS BOOK BEFORE.
I CAN READ IT NOW BECAUSE YOU RECOMMENDED EASIER BOOKS TO ME FIRST.

SHE LOOKS SO HAPPY.
THIS FACE.
I LIKE IT.
...
OH.
I SHOULD START ON MY HOME-WORK.
I WANTED TO SAY IT.
I CAN NEVER GET THE RIGHT TIMING.
OH, RIGHT. STUDY HARD.
BUT...

SOME-DAY
YOU SAY THAT NOW, BUT NOTHING WILL EVER HAPPEN. BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, YOU'LL BE A 37-YEAR-OLD VIRGIN. THAT WAS YOUR LAST CHANCE, ASSHOLE (LOL).
THAT'S SO SLOPPY!
AT THIS RATE, IT REALLY WILL HAPPEN. I'M JUST WORRIED WHAT YOU'LL BE LIKE 20 YEARS FROM NOW.
IT COULD HAPPEN.
EH?! I CAN'T SEE!
SUMMER VACATION IS OVER.
SHE'LL HAVE FOUND ANOTHER MAN LONG AGO AND HAD THREE KIDS.
YOU SHOULD BE WORRIED ABOUT WHAT YOU'LL BE LIKE IN FIVE YEARS.
YOU'RE TAKING SO LONG, IT'S STARTING TO ANNOY ME.
YOU'RE SO OBNOXIOUS, SHIRO-SAN IS STARTING TO ENJOY THE AGONY.
SIGH
SIGH

FIDGET
FIDGET
I CAN'T JUST CONFESS TO HER NORMALLY, EITHER.
YOU KNOW, SINCE SHE'S INTO LITERATURE.
SENPAI IS DISCREET, AND SHE HAS EXAMS TO STUDY FOR.
BUT, UH... THE TIMING.
I THOUGHT THE SITUATION WOULD BE IMPORTANT.
I DOUBT SHE'D BE OKAY WITH IT UNLESS THE MOOD'S RIGHT.
LIKE A BEAUTIFUL SUNSET OR NIGHT SKY.
I BET YOU'RE LOOKING FOR GOOD LINES IN THE BOOKS YOU'VE BEEN BORROWING.
JUMP
I BET YOU'D ACTUALLY SAY SOMETHING LIKE "THE MOON'S SO BEAUTIFUL."
GOOD THING IT'S ONLY FICTION.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST SAY I SMELL LIKE A VIRGIN?
IF YOU WERE CANNED, YOU'D SMELL WORSE THAN SURSTRÖMMING.
I THOUGHT IT'D BE MEAN TO BE TOO DIRECT.
EMBARRASSING
SO
SH-SHUT UP!
SO EMBARRASSING
SHIRO IS AGONIZING OVER HOW CORNY YOU ARE.
IT'S DISGUSTING.
SURSTRÖMMING
SWEDISH CANNED AND FERMENTED HERRING, FAMOUS FOR BEING THE WORLD'S STINKIEST FOOD.

SOME GUYS GET SO CAUGHT UP IN THINGS THAT DON'T MATTER.
THAT WHAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT PASSES THEM BY.
OH, LIKE MAYUMI-SAN.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S SCARED AND WANTS THE MOOD TO BE RIGHT, BUT YOU'RE PRO-JECTING IT ONTO HER.
OH, LIKE MAYUMI-SAN.
BUT I FINALLY MADE IT THIS FAR!
I HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO SAY I'M A LITTLE BIT SPECIAL TO HER!
IF POS-SIBLE, I WANT IT TO BE WON-DERFUL!!
I DON'T WANT TO MESS IT UP!
I'LL SAY IT OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS!
I PROM-ISE!
SEV-ERAL DAYS LATER
WHAT?

I SAW YOU...
...HOLDING HANDS AT THE FIREWORKS DISPLAY.
YOU STILL HAVEN'T TOLD HER?!
YOU SAID YOU HADN'T TOLD HER YET,
BUT I THOUGHT YOU'D GET TOGETHER OVER SUMMER BREAK...
OH! I KNOW!
I DECIDED TO LET HIM BELIEVE THAT.
IF YOU WERE CANNED, YOU'D BE WEAPONIZED FOR SURE.
THAT'S SOME COMPO-SURE!
NOW YOU'RE LETTING SENPAI BE FLUS-TERED!
IT'S SO COOL HOW YOU'RE NOT OVER-EAGER!

SEVERAL DAYS LATER

YOU STILL HAVEN'T TOLD HER?!
YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT THE TIMING? DON'T YOU HAVE PLENTY OF CHANCES, SINCE YOU LIVE TOGETHER?
IT SOUNDS LIKE WE'RE LIVING IN THE SAME ROOM WHEN THEY SAY WE'RE LIVING TOGETHER.
I WISH I COULD PLAY KICK THE CAN WITH YOU.

SEVERAL DAYS LATER

NOW THAT I'VE COME THIS FAR, MY CONFESSION NEEDS TO BE THE COOLEST THING EVER.
BOY, YOU STINK.
YOUR CONTEMPTUOUS REMARKS HAVE GOTTEN SIMPLER.
I'M HOME.
ARE YOU READY FOR YOUR EXAMS?
HAVE SOME TEA.
WELL... I THINK I'LL BE OKAY.
I'VE BEEN GETTING A'S.
THANKS.
WELCOME BACK FROM CRAM SCHOOL.
IN THAT CASE,
MAYBE I HAVE A CHANCE.
RIT-CHAN, YOU'RE MOVING OUT OF THE KAWAII COMPLEX ONCE YOU START COLLEGE, RIGHT?
RIGHT?

I HAVEN'T DECIDED YET.
REAL-LY?
IT'S TOO BAD, SINCE YOU AND USA-KUN HAVE BECOME SUCH GOOD FRIENDS.
?
SAYAKA-SAN, WHAT ARE YOU...
WHISPER
...
I SEE...
CLATTER
WHAT?!
I'M... GOING TO MAKE A PHONE CALL.
YOU CAN LEAVE YOUR BAG THERE.
TOO BAD?
HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS HAVE TOTALLY DIFFERENT SCHEDULES.
YOU'LL BECOME ESTRANGED IF YOU MOVE AWAY.
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE A LOT OF NEW FRIENDS LIKE USA-KUN.
BUT YOU'LL MEET A LOT OF NEW PEOPLE, TOO.
I'M EXCITED FOR YOU.

UGH
THE GIRLS' AREA...
OH, NO. SHE RAN AWAY.
SEN-PAI!
DID SHE JUST SAY, "I SEE?!"
WAIT...
PLEASE DON'T UPSET HER WITH WEIRD REMARKS!
SINCE YOU'VE BEEN DRAGGING YOUR FEET,
I DECIDED TO GIVE YOU A PUSH.
RIT-CHAN DOES SEEM LIKE SHE'D BE ABLE TO MAKE MORE FRIENDS NOW.
EVEN FRIENDS WITH LOTS OF ULTERIOR MOTIVES, LIKE USA.
PLEASE STOP!
THEY'RE RIGHT. THINGS WILL CHANGE.
SHE SAID "I SEE"...
I'M ACTU-ALLY JUST LUCKY THAT WE LIVE TO-GETHER AT THE KAWAI COMPLEX.
ONCE SENPAI LEAVES...
WE'RE OFF.

WHOOSH
THESE...
OH.
IT'S CHILLY TODAY.
YEAH, IT FEELS NICE.
...CASUAL CONVERSATIONS WILL DISAPPEAR.
THAT'S AN AUTUMN SKY.
...BUT IT IS SPECIAL
IT'S SO PRETTY.
WE'RE EXITING THE GATE LIKE WE ALWAYS DO.
THERE'S NOTHING SPECIAL ABOUT IT...
SEN-PAI...
NOW.
NOW IS THE TIME.
I...

OH? IS HE DOING IT? IS HE REALLY DOING IT?
WORK? I'M TAKING TODAY OFF SINCE I WORKED OVER THE WEEKEND THE OTHER DAY.
ALL RIGHT. SPRAY YOUR STINK EVERYWHERE. I'LL BE WATCHING.
NOT NOW.
SINCE I DON'T HAVE ANY PLANS, I'M ALREADY DRINKING
WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME WITH PITY IN YOUR EYES?
IT WASN'T THE RIGHT TIME.
I'LL PULL MYSELF TOGETHER.
DO YOU HAVE A STUDY SESSION TODAY?
NO.
BUT I'M MEETING HAYASHI-SAN.
THERE'S NO WAY
I DON'T WANT THAT IN THE BACKGROUND.
?
I SEE.
UGH.
IT'S NOT GOING RIGHT.

RITSU-SENPAI, OVER HERE!
I'M GOING TO BE JOIN-ING YOU.
SHIINA-SAN?
I CAME WITH SAKUMA AND HAPPENED TO RUN INTO HAYASHI-SAN
SAKUMA IS DISCUSSING HISTORY WITH YAMAMOTO-SAN.
YOU WANTED TO TALK ABOUT USA-KUN, RIGHT?
SHIINA-SAN HAS A RIGHT TO KNOW!
SHE HELPED YOU OUT.
BESIDES, IT'D BE WAY BETTER TO MAKE HER AN ALLY INSTEAD OF A RIVAL.
?
WHAT?
YOU'RE STILL NOT DATING?!

BUT... WEREN'T YOU HOLDING HANDS AT THE FIREWORKS DISPLAY?
HOW?!
I HAPPENED TO SEE YOU
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
I KNOW.
BUT THEY'RE STILL STUCK HERE.
NO!
IT WAS SO WE WOULDN'T GET SEPARATED!
I THOUGHT THEY'D BE TOGETHER BY NOW.
DO YOU NOT FEEL THAT WAY ABOUT USA-SENPAI?
WHAT A WASTE.
HE'S FUNNY, NICE,
AND KIND OF CUTE. I WOULD DATE HIM.
DOES...
DOES THAT MEAN YOU LIKE HIM?
...
WHAT?!
BLUSH

NO!
I'M NOT THAT CRAZY.
AND I WAS BEING RECK-LESS.
WELL, YOU PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN THAT CLOSE UNLESS YOU LIVED TOGETHER AT THE KAWAI COMPLEX.
USA-KUN IS LUCKY.
UMM
USA-SENPAI HAS ALWAYS...
BEEN SO CLOSE TO YOU, I DIDN'T THINK THERE WAS ANY ROOM FOR ME.
IT'S NO WONDER, CONSIDERING HOW OBVIOUSLY IN LOVE WITH HIM SHE IS.
YOU FINALLY SEEM TO UNDER-STAND, TOO.
WHY DON'T YOU WAIT?
USA-KUN WILL PROBABLY CONFESS TO HER SOON.
AND DON'T REJECT HIM AGAIN OVER YOUR OWN WEIRD AS-SUMPTIONS.

...
BUT...
WHAT?!
ARE YOU SERIOUS??!
!?
?
?
DO WHATEVER YOU WANT, THEN!
GET OUT OF HERE!!
!?!?

SIGH
はぁ
HEY.
WHAT...
ぐいぐい
PUSH
JUST GO!
HA...
HAYA-SHI-SA...
DO WHAT-EVER YOU WANT!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT.
HER THOUGHT PROCESS DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE AT ALL.
IS THAT WHAT HAPPENS TO ALL BOOK-WORMS?
DON'T. THAT WOULD MAKE ME LIKE HER, TOO.
IF YOU'RE BLAMING ON THE BOOKS...
I CAN'T HANDLE THIS ANY-MORE.
SHE CAN DO WHATEVER SHE WANTS!

ARE YOU FINISHED MEETING WITH HAYASHI?
YEAH
OH.
SEN-PAI!
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?
?
YEAH
MAYBE?
YE...
DID YOU HAVE FUN?
WOW!
THE SUNSET IS REALLY BEAUTIFUL TODAY!
I SEE IT EVERYDAY, BUT IT'S NOT OFTEN THAT IT'S THIS PRETTY.
RIGHT...

YOU'RE RIGHT.
IT'S BEAUTIFUL.
SMILE
くず
THIS IS IT.
THIS IS...
...THE IDEAL TIME.
SENPAI,
I...

NEVERMIND.
FORGET IT.
WHY ARE YOU GETTING SO FLUSTERED OUT OF THE BLUE? DO YOU WANT TO GO HOME WITH ME?
YOU'RE FREE TO FIX YOURSELF UP IF YOU WANT, BUT IT'S TRY TO DO IT IN PRIVATE
COULD YOU PUT ON THE BOOKS, PLEASE?
OH, MAN, I'M ACTUALLY BEING DRAGGED ALONG.

GOOD TIMING.
COULD YOU TAKE THE GARBAGE OUT BACK?
AND THIS.
I HAVE NEWS PAPERS.
FOOD SCRAPS.
WELCOME BACK.
THAT WAS THE PERFECT MOMENT...
DAMN IT, SHIRO-SAN...

WHAT IS THIS?
IT'S SMALL AND LIGHT.
?
COCK-ROACHES.
I FOUND THEM WHILE CLEANING THE KITCHEN.
THREE OF THEM.
SHUFFLE

RIT-CHAN, YOU CAN CARRY THE NEWS-PAPERS.
B-BUT THE COCK-ROACHES...
IT'S OKAY. THEY'RE DEAD.
PROB-ABLY.
PROB-ABLY?!
HOW CAN YOU BE SO SCARED?
ONCE YOU LEAVE THE KAWAI COMPLEX, YOU'LL BE ON YOUR OWN.
YOU NEED TO BE ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF COCK-ROACHES BY YOURSELF.
GROAN

THEY WON'T COME BACK TO LIFE. WILL THEY?
WHO KNOWS? THEY'RE PRETTY TOUGH.
MAYBE WE SHOULD CRUSH THEM COMPLETELY.
YOU WANT ME TO?
THAT'S PRETTY BRUTAL, SENPAI.
ヒドイな、もう。
I'M NOT CONFIDENT ENOUGH TO KILL THEM MYSELF.
YOU CAN CALL ME.
I'LL COME RUNNING.
BUT SUMIKO-SAN IS RIGHT.
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WHEN I START LIVING ON MY OWN?
BUT... I COULDN'T TROUBLE YOU LIKE THAT.
I CAN'T ASK SOMEONE TO COME OVER JUST TO KILL A COCKROACH.
DON'T BE SUCH A STRANGER.
YOU AND I ARE CLOSE.

OH.
YOU KNOW.
BECAUSE WE'RE FRIENDS!
I'D BE LIVING FAR AWAY FROM HERE IF I MOVED OUT.
I CAN'T RELY ON MY FRIENDS THAT MUCH.
I MIGHT MAKE FRIENDS WHO DON'T MIND COCKROACHES AT COLLEGE.
THE PLAN: MAKE BASE SOES OVER THERE
SAYAKA-SAN SAID SO.
WHAT?
SHE'D INVITE FRIENDS WITH ULTERIOR MOTIVES TO HER HOUSE?!
MAYBE IF I LIVE NEARBY...
I THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO RELY ON YOUR FRIENDS TOO MUCH!
?
ARE YOU SAYING I SHOULD HANDLE IT MYSELF?
UH...
IN THAT CASE...

THAT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN WORSE.